

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 14.

Fig. 1.—Upper surface of borer.

Fig. 2.—Under surface of borer.

Fig. 3 and 4.—Side views of same.

Fig. 5.—Arrangement of spines.

Figs. 1, 3, 4, $\times 85$. Fig., 2 $\times 60$.

Note on the tracheæ of certain Australian Ducks.

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In our Proceedings for the year 1877, I made some remarks on the *Anas castanea* of Eyton, our common Australian Teal, and referred to Professor Newton's remarks on the tracheæ of this species, see P.Z.S. 1871, p. 649. I was not a little surprised at the statement that a *bulla ossea* was found in the tracheæ of *both* sexes, having some years ago examined a considerable number of the same species without finding any *bulla ossea* in the female, but in the males it was well developed. I have recently examined six females with the same results, finding no trace of this organ in any of them, I believe therefore that Professor Newton must have been misled by the carelessness of his taxidermist.

In *Myroca australis* the *bulla ossea*, found in the males only, is of large size; in the Freckled Duck, *Stictonetta naevosa*, it is not found, either in the male or female, but the tracheæ of the male has a slight swelling about $\frac{1}{3}$ of its length from the root of the tongue, and in this enlargement the rings are divided, by a narrow slit, of which however more hereafter, when I hope to be able to offer the Society some remarks on this and other species of Australian Ducks. For the present I wish merely to correct an error into which my friend, Professor Newton, has fallen, and which I quoted in the above mentioned paper on Australian Birds.
